CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An image browsing user interface, comprising:

a display; and

a first function to select for viewing on the display an image belonging to a set of images, the set of images comprising at least one preferred image, each preferred image belonging to a group of images.

2. The image browsing user interface of claim 1, further comprising:

a second function to select for viewing on the display at least one image belonging to a group of images, when the first function has selected the preferred image within the group of images.

3. The image browsing user interface of claim 1, further comprising:

a third function to designate the preferred image within a group of images.

4. The image browsing user interface of claim 3, wherein the third function designates as the preferred image the most recently selected image within the group of images.

5. The image browsing user interface of claim 1, wherein the set of images contains at least one individual image.

6. The image browsing user interface of claim 1, wherein the first function comprises a first pair of opposing directional modes, and the second function comprises a second pair of opposing directional modes that is orthogonal to the first pair of opposing directional modes.

7. The image browsing user interface of claim 1, further comprising:

a fourth function to delete all images except those belonging to the set of images.

8. A image browsing user interface, comprising:

means for displaying at least one image; and

first input means for selecting for display an image belonging to a set of images, the set of images comprising at least one preferred image, each preferred image belonging to a group of images.

9. The image browsing user interface of claim 8, further comprising:

second input means for selecting for display at least one image belonging to a group of images, when the first input means has selected the preferred image within the group of images.

10. The image browsing user interface of claim 8, further comprising:

third input means for designating the preferred image within a group of images.

11. The image browsing user interface of claim 10, wherein the third input means designates as the preferred image the most recently selected image within the group of images.

12. The image browsing user interface of claim 8, wherein the set of images contains at least one individual image.

13. The image browsing user interface of claim 8, wherein the first input means comprises a first pair of opposing directional modes, and the second input means comprises a second pair of opposing directional modes that is orthogonal to the first pair of opposing directional modes.

14. The image browsing user interface of claim 8, further comprising:

fourth input means for deleting all images except those belonging to the set of images.

15. A digital camera, comprising:

an optical system;

an imaging device to convert optical images received from the optical system to corresponding digital images;

a memory to store the digital images;

a display;

control logic configured to designate a preferred digital image within each of at least one group of digital images;

a first input control to select for viewing on the display a digital image belonging to a set of digital images, the set of digital images comprising at least one preferred digital image; and

a second input control to select for viewing on the display at least one digital image belonging to a group of digital images, when the first input control has selected the preferred digital image within the group of digital images.

16. The digital camera of claim 15, wherein the control logic designates the most recently selected digital image within each group of digital images as the preferred digital image.

17. The digital camera of claim 15, wherein the set of images contains at least one individual image.

18. The digital camera of claim 15, wherein the first input control comprises a first pair of opposing directional modes, and the second input control comprises a second pair of opposing directional modes that is orthogonal to the first pair of opposing directional modes.

19. The digital camera of claim 18, wherein the first pair of opposing directional modes lies horizontally with respect to a housing of the digital camera and the second pair of opposing directional modes lies vertically with respect to the housing of the digital camera.

20. The digital camera of claim 18, wherein the first pair of opposing directional modes lies vertically with respect to a housing of the digital camera and the second pair of opposing directional modes lies horizontally with respect to the housing of the digital camera.

21. The digital camera of claim 15, further comprising:

a third input control to delete all digital images except those belonging to the set of digital images.

22. The digital camera of claim 15, further comprising:

a communication interface configured to transfer at least the set of digital images to an external device.

23. A method for manipulating images stored in a device, comprising:

selecting for display at least one image belonging to both a first and a second set of images using a first control;

selecting for display at least one image belonging to the second set of images using a second control; and

designating one of the at least one images belonging to the second set of images as a preferred image, the preferred image thereby becoming a member of both the first and second sets of images.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein designating one of the at least one images belonging to the second set of images as a preferred image is performed in response to at least one image not belonging to the second set of images being

selected using the first control, the preferred image comprising the most recently selected image from among the at least one images belonging to the second set of images.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein designating one of the at least one images belonging to the second set of images as a preferred image comprises embedding a tag within the one of the at least one images belonging to the second set of images.

26. The method of claim 23, wherein designating one of the at least one images belonging to the second set of images as a preferred image comprises setting a directory attribute associated with the one of the at least one images belonging to the second set of images.

27. The method of claim 23, wherein designating one of the at least one images belonging to the second set of images as a preferred image comprises adding to a list of preferred images an identifier corresponding to the one of the at least one images belonging to the second set of images.

28. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

deleting all images stored in the device except those belonging to the first set of images.

29. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

uploading at least the first set of images to an external device.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein all images stored in the device are uploaded to the external device, the external device subsequently operating upon only the first set of images by identifying a tag embedded within each image belonging to the first set of images.

31. The method of claim 23, wherein the device is a digital camera, a palmtop computer, a PDA, a personal computer, or a communicator phone.

32. A method for manipulating images stored in a device, comprising:

selecting for display one of an individual image and a preferred image using a first control, the preferred image belonging to a group of images;

selecting for display a different image belonging to the group of images using a second control, when the first control has been used to select the preferred image; and

designating the different image as the preferred image, when an image not belonging to the group of images is subsequently selected using the first control.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein designating the different image as the preferred image comprises embedding a tag within the different image.

34. The method of claim 32, wherein designating the different image as the preferred image comprises setting a directory attribute associated with the different image.

35. The method of claim 32, wherein designating the different image as the preferred image comprises adding to a list of preferred images an identifier corresponding to the different image.

36. The method of claim 32, wherein the device stores at least one individual image and at least one preferred image and further comprising:

deleting all images stored in the device except individual images and preferred images.

37. The method of claim 32, wherein the device stores at least one individual image and at least one preferred image and further comprising:

uploading at least the individual images and the preferred images to an external device.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein all images stored in the device are uploaded to the external device, the external device subsequently operating upon only the individual images and the preferred images by identifying a tag embedded within each individual or preferred image.

39. The method of claim 32, wherein the device is a digital camera, a palmtop computer, a PDA, a personal computer, or a communicator phone.

40. A method for manipulating images stored in a device, comprising:

selecting for display an image belonging to both a first and a second set of images using a first control;

accessing the second set of images using a second control;

selecting for display a different image belonging to the second set of images using the first control;

exiting the second set of images using the second control;

designating the most recently selected image belonging to the second set of images as a preferred image, the preferred image thereby becoming a member of both the first and second sets of images.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein designating the most recently selected image belonging to the second set of images as a preferred image comprises embedding a tag within the most recently displayed image belonging to the second set of images.

42. The method of claim 40, wherein designating the most recently selected image belonging to the second set of images as a preferred image comprises setting a directory attribute associated with the most recently displayed image belonging to the second set of images.

43. The method of claim 40, wherein designating the most recently selected image belonging to the second set of images as a preferred image comprises adding to a list of preferred images an identifier corresponding to the most recently displayed image belonging to the second set of images.

44. The method of claim 40, further comprising:

deleting all images stored in the device except those belonging to the first set of images.

45. The method of claim 40, further comprising:

uploading the first set of images to an external device.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein all images stored in the device are uploaded to the external device, the external device subsequently operating upon only the first set of images by identifying a tag embedded within each image belonging to the first set of images.

47. The method of claim 40, wherein the device is a digital camera, a palmtop computer, a PDA, a personal computer, or a communicator phone.